



York County Honors Two Homeowners Associations With “Neighborhood of the Year” Awards

Yorktown, September 21 – The Glen Laurel Homeowners Association and the Marlbank Cove Association received “Neighborhood of the Year” awards from the York County Board of Supervisors Aug. 17 for innovative beautification and community spirit programs.

Thomas G. Shepperd Jr., chairman of the York County Board of Supervisors, presented Glen Laurel President Pete Parkerson the Beautification Category award for its “Yard of the Month” program, which recognizes the homeowner who has done the most to beautify his yard during the spring and fall months.

“This program is so elegantly simple in its intent, and yet it has produced a spirit of friendly competition among the homeowners in Glen Laurel that has resulted in a more beautiful community,” Shepperd said.

Shepperd also noted that Glen Laurel has been recognized for its beauty before: It has received York County’s Beautification Award in the past for its ongoing community beautification effort, which includes yearly cleaning of its white fence, yearly planting of pansies and waxed begonias, and trees, shrubs and grass on Glen Laurel Way, its main thoroughfare.

The “Neighborhood Cooperation and Spirit” category award went to the Marlbank Cove Association for its innovative use of the Internet. Shepperd presented the award to Association President Craig Hanson and Board Member Steve Bryan.

“Many of our homeowners associations in York County have websites, but Marlbank Cove has taken the concept a step higher,” Shepperd said. “The Community took advantage of an offer last year from the York County Community Network to start its own website. In the year since then, the website has grown to be an important part of community life and is now an exceptional avenue for communication between members.”

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Neighborhood of the Year Winners

Marlbank Cove's website features a full array of information about volunteerism opportunities, downloadable association documents, recommended services and special offers from area merchants exclusive to Marlbank Cove residents. Complementing this is an internal e-mail system that allows communication between all residents, and provides an electronic version of the Association's newsletter each month. Special bulletins also are sent in this manner, alerting residents to general health and safety issues. Seventy percent of Marlbank Cove residents take advantage of this service.

Marlbank Cove reports that this innovation has resulted in a noticeable increase in participation at community social and business activities.

Each year, York County seeks nominations from homeowner associations throughout the County for programs that improve the quality of life in the County's neighborhoods. Nominations are sought for three categories: Beautification, Neighborhood Cooperation and Spirit, and Safety. There was no Safety award given in 2004.

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